

JS 44 (Rev. 04/21)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Kassia Stanberry

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Somerset
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Robert E. Myers, Esquire, Coffey Kaye Myers & Olley, Two
Bala Plaza, Suite 718, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

610-668-9800

DEFENDANTS

New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Essex
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
Federal Employers Liability Act, 45 U.S.C. § 51 et seq.

Brief description of cause:

Plaintiff sustained injuries during the course and scope of her employment with New Jersey Transit

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$

Excess of \$150,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S)**

IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

09/22/2022

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44**Authority For Civil Cover Sheet**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

KASSIA STANBERRY

P.O. Box 6574
Somerset, NJ 08873

Plaintiff

CIVIL ACTION NO.:

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

vs.

**NEW JERSEY TRANSIT RAIL
OPERATIONS, INC.**

One Penn Plaza East
Newark, NJ 07105

COMPLAINT
COUNT – DECEMBER 9, 2020

1. The plaintiff herein is Kassia Stanberry, a citizen and resident of the State of New Jersey, residing therein at P.O. Box 6574, Somerset, NJ 08873.
2. The defendant is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New Jersey.
3. This action arises under the Act of Congress, April 22, 1908, c. 149, 35 Stat. 65, and amendments thereto, U.S.C.A. Title 45, §51 et seq., and further amended by the Act of Congress, approved by the President of the United States on August 11, 1939, Chapter 685 - First Session of the 76th Congress, known and cited as "The Federal Employers' Liability Act" and under "The Federal Safety Appliances Act," Title 49, U.S.C.A., §20301, et seq.
4. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned and for a long time prior thereto, the defendant, as a common carrier, operated trains carrying passengers, freight, express packages, baggage and foreign and domestic mail, in commerce, between the different states of the United States and its territories.
5. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned, the acts of omission and commission,

causing the injuries to the plaintiff, were done by the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees, acting in the course and scope of their employment with and under the control of the defendant.

6. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff and the defendant were engaged in interstate commerce between the different states of the United States and its territories.

7. All of the property, equipment and operations involved in the incident herein referred to were owned by and under the control of the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees.

8. As a result of the incident herein referred to, plaintiff has suffered a loss and impairment of earnings and earning power and will suffer the same for an indefinite time in the future; has undergone great physical pain and mental anguish and will undergo the same for an indefinite time in the future; has been obliged to and will have to continue to expend large sums of money in the future in an effort to effect a cure of her injuries; has been unable to attend to her usual duties and occupation and will be unable to attend to the same for an indefinite time in the future, all to her great detriment and loss.

9. The incident herein referred to was caused solely and exclusively by the negligence of the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees, and was due in no manner whatsoever to any act or failure to act on the part of the plaintiff.

10. On December 9, 2020 and for some time prior thereto, plaintiff was employed by New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Inc. (NJTRO) as a passenger conductor.

11. On that date, plaintiff was assigned to train 3718. Plaintiff's train was travelling eastbound between Newark Penn Station and Hudson Station.

12. As the train was moving, plaintiff walked from Car number 3 (car 5580) to Car

number 4 (Car number 5433) to speak with a ticket collector whose first name was Valarie and who boarded at Newark so that they could discuss how they were going to handle revenue collection on the train.

13. After discussing revenue, the plaintiff was returning from car number 4 back to car number 3. Suddenly and without warning while the train was travelling through the Newark New Jersey Essex county interlocking there was a violent lateral movement.

14. The aforementioned violent movement of the train slammed plaintiff into the left side of the vestibule causing her to strike her body against the vestibule or a handhold or grab iron. As she was thrown into the left wall, she felt immediate and severe pain in her left arm. Although plaintiff felt as though she was going to fall to the floor, she was able to maintain her balance and remain upright. Once regaining her balance, plaintiff felt immediate pain in her left shoulder, neck, and her entire spine. Plaintiff then had difficulty breathing.

15. Plaintiff sat for the remainder of the trip and reported the incident and her injuries when she arrived in New York Penn Station.

16. As a result of the aforementioned accident, plaintiff sustained the serious, painful, permanent, and personal injuries hereinafter set forth.

17. The aforementioned accident was caused by the negligence and carelessness of the defendant, its agents, servants, workman and/or employees and was not caused by any conduct on the part of the plaintiff.

18. The negligence of the defendant consisted of the following:

- a. Failing to properly operate the train;
- b. Failing to properly operate the train under the existing condition;
- c. Failing to properly operate the train at or near an interlocking;
- d. Failing to properly inspect the tracks where the excessive movement occurred;
- e. Failing to discover the unsafe condition of the tracks where the excessive movement occurred;

- f. Failing to properly repair the tracks in the area where the excessive movement occurred;
- g. Failing to warn the plaintiff that the train was about to enter an area where excessive movement was probable; and
- h. Failing to warn plaintiff of these dangerous conditions

21. As a result of the aforesaid accident, plaintiff sustained injuries to the neck, entire spine, left upper extremity, left shoulder, and difficulty breathing; multiple contusions; injuries to the discs at levels C5 through C7; injury to the discs at level T3-T4 and T11-T12; posttraumatic headaches; multiple herniated discs; radiculopathy at level C6; cervicgia; low back pain; cervical disc disorder; cervical facet syndrome; thoracic radiculopathy; left shoulder rotator cuff syndrome; and subacromial bursitis of the left shoulder joint. Some or all of the above injuries are or may be permanent in nature and plaintiff may require surgical repair. The full extent of plaintiff's injuries is not presently known.

COUNT II
JULY 25, 2021 ACCIDENT

22. The plaintiff herein is Kassia Stanberry, a citizen and resident of the State of New Jersey, residing therein at P.O. Box 6574, Somerset, NJ 08873.

23. The defendant is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New Jersey.

24. This action arises under the Act of Congress, April 22, 1908, c. 149, 35 Stat. 65, and amendments thereto, U.S.C.A. Title 45, §51 et seq., and further amended by the Act of Congress, approved by the President of the United States on August 11, 1939, Chapter 685 - First Session of the 76th Congress, known and cited as "The Federal Employers' Liability Act" and under "The Federal Safety Appliances Act," Title 49, U.S.C.A., §20301, et seq.

25. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned and for a long time prior thereto, the defendant, as a common carrier, operated trains carrying passengers, freight, express packages,

baggage and foreign and domestic mail, in commerce, between the different states of the United States and its territories.

26. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned, the acts of omission and commission, causing the injuries to the plaintiff, were done by the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees, acting in the course and scope of their employment with and under the control of the defendant.

27. At the time and place hereinafter mentioned, the plaintiff and the defendant were engaged in interstate commerce between the different states of the United States and its territories.

28. All of the property, equipment and operations involved in the incident herein referred to were owned by and under the control of the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees.

29. As a result of the incident herein referred to, plaintiff has suffered a loss and impairment of earnings and earning power and will suffer the same for an indefinite time in the future; has undergone great physical pain and mental anguish and will undergo the same for an indefinite time in the future; has been obliged to and will have to continue to expend large sums of money in the future in an effort to effect a cure of her injuries; has been unable to attend to her usual duties and occupation and will be unable to attend to the same for an indefinite time in the future, all to her great detriment and loss.

30. The incident herein referred to was caused solely and exclusively by the negligence of the defendant, its agents, servants, workmen and/or employees, and was due in no manner whatsoever to any act or failure to act on the part of the plaintiff.

31. On or about July 25, 2021, and for some time prior thereto, plaintiff was employed by New Jersey Transit Rail Operations, Inc. (NJTRO) and was working as the rear brake on train

number 5506.

32. At the time of the incident, plaintiff was standing between the second and third cars and was walking toward the second car.

33. As the train was passing over a crossover while approaching the Union Station on the Raritan Line, suddenly and without any warning, a severe lateral movement occurred throwing the plaintiff into a grab iron which struck her left arm.

34. As a result of the aforementioned accident, plaintiff felt immediate pain in her left arm, left elbow, neck and a tingling down her arm into her fingers.

35. Plaintiff submitted an accident report and drove herself to an urgent care despite the pain.

36. The aforementioned accident was caused by the negligence and carelessness of the defendant, its agents, servants workman and/or employees and was not caused by any conduct on the part of the plaintiff.

37. The negligence of the defendant consisted of the following:

- i. Failing to properly operate the train;
- j. Failing to properly operate the train under the existing condition;
- k. Failing to properly operate the train at or near a crossover;
- l. Failing to properly inspect the tracks where the excessive movement occurred;
- m. Failing to discover the unsafe condition of the tracks where the excessive movement occurred;
- n. Failing to properly repair the tracks in the area where the excessive movement occurred;
- o. Failing to warn the plaintiff that the train was about to enter an area where excessive movement was probable; and
- p. Failing to warn plaintiff of these dangerous conditions

38. As a result of the aforesaid accident, plaintiff sustained injuries to the left arm; injury to the neck; injury to the left elbow; tingling throughout the left arm through the fingers; contusions to the body; cervicalgia; right sided cervical radiculitis; bulging disc at level C5-C6; cervicogenic

headache; right flank pain; thoracic radiculopathy; and aggravation and/or exacerbation to pre-existing conditions of the neck and arms. Some or all of the above injuries are or may be permanent in nature and plaintiff may require surgical repair. The full extent of plaintiff's injuries is not presently known.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff claims of the defendant, upon each of the foregoing counts, a sum in excess of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000.00) Dollars.

COFFEY KAYE MYERS & OLLEY

BY: /s/ Robert E. Myers
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